

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 ARAE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

SP-02 CIAE-00 MCT-01 DODE-00 PM-03 EUR-08 PRS-01 EB-03

OMB-01 TRSE-00 /050 W

-----101914Z 126262 /65

P R 101745Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3994

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 GEORGETOWN 0051

LIMDIS

FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GY

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: CARACAS 227 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: IN CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER THIS MORNING (JAN. 10), HE MENTIONED INTENT TO RETURN AMBASSADOR MANN TO WASHINGTON PRIOR TO JANUARY 20, EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN OVER GUYANA'S DRIFT TO THE EAST, PROBLEMS PERTAINING TO DEVELOPMENT AID AND ACTIVITIES OF CUBANS AND RADICALS HERE PUSHING GUYANA INTO EASTERN ORBIT. END SUMMARY.

1. I HAVE ESTABLISHED A POLICY OF PASSING ALL INFORMATION REGARDING CUBAN EXILE TERRORIST ACTIVITIES THROUGH THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OR, IN HIS ABSENCE, THE PERMANENT SECRETARY. DURING SUCH A TELEPHONE CALL PASSING ON ONLY INFORMATION
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MATION CONTAINED PARA 1 REFTEL TO FOREIGN MINISTER, WILLS REQUESTED I COME TO HIS OFFICE. HE EXPLAINED HE WAS TIRED OF THE PRESENT ARTIFICIAL SITUATION WHICH HAS PRECLUDED HIM FROM HAVING OFFICIAL FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS WITH ME AND HAS DECIDED HENCEFORTH THAT WE WILL HAVE FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS IN THE FUTURE. WILLS THEN SAID HE INTENDS TO RETURN AMBASSADOR MANN TO WASHINGTON ON JANUARY 18 SINCE HE WANTED HIM THERE PRIOR TO

THE INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER.

2. THE FOREIGN MINISTER THEN LAUNCHED INTO A SHORT SPEECH CONCERNING HIS DESIRE FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. HE ASKED IF I WAS AWARE OF HIS REPLY TO THE PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY (PPP) MEMBER COLLEYMORE DURING THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON THE BUDGET IN WHICH HE INFORMED COLLEYMORE THAT GUYANA SHOULD MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES AND NOT SOLELY WITH THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. I REPLIED YES I HAD READ HIS REMARKS. THE FOREIGN MINISTER THEN CONTINUED THAT HE WAS CONCERNED THAT GUYANA WAS DRIFTING TOO CLOSE TO THE EAST. HE SAID HE HAS NO WISH TO SEE GUYANA WHO JUST RECENTLY THREW OFF BRITISH RULE TO THEN BECOME CONTROLLED BY THE RUSSIANS AND THE CUBANS. HE SAID HE WAS AWARE THAT THE PPP WAS OWNED LOCK, STOCK AND BARREL BY THE SOVIETS. HE THOUGHT THAT GUYANA'S BEST COURSE WAS TO REMAIN NON-ALIGNED BUT THAT THERE WERE PEOPLE IN AND OUTSIDE THE GOVERNMENT WHO ARE TRYING TO PUSH GUYANA INTO THE ARMS OF THE CUBANS AND THE RUSSIANS. IN FACT, THE CURRENT HEADS OF MISSIONS CONFERENCE THAT WAS PRESENTLY TAKING PLACE WOULD DISCUSS THE COURSE OF GUYANA'S FOREIGN POLICY, WHETHER TO GO CLOSER TO THE EAST OR TO REMAIN NON-ALIGNED. AT THIS POINT I POINTED OUT TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER THAT I SAW NO REAL ALTERNATIVE FOR THE GOVERNMENT SINCE I'M SURE HE AND THE PRIME MINISTER KNEW WHO THE RUSSIANS AND THE CUBANS CONSIDERED TO BE THEIR REAL FRIENDS IN GUYANA AND I DID NOT BELIEVE IT WAS THE PNC. THE FOREIGN MINISTER AGREED.

3. WILLS THEN SAID MUCH DEPENDED UPON GUYANA'S ABILITY TO RECEIVE AID EITHER THROUGH THE OPEC NATIONS OR FROM OTHER
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PRIMARILY NON-ALIGNED SOURCES. HE CLAIMED THE LIBYANS AND THE NIGERIANS RECEIVED HIM WITH OPEN ARMS DURING HIS RECENT VISIT AND WHILE HE DID NOT RECEIVE ANY CONCRETE AID OFFERS, THEY DIDN'T SAY NO. HE SAID, OF COURSE, HE WASN'T SURE EVEN IF THE U.S. OFFERED AID WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT POLITICALLY COULD AFFORD TO ACCEPT IT. I REPLIED I WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO COMMENT WHETHER THE U.S. WOULD OR WOULD NOT OFFER AID, THAT UP TO NOW GUYANA'S CREDIT RATING APPEARED TO BE GOOD AND THAT GUYANA STILL HAD THE OPTION TO DISCUSS LOANS WITH THE VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL BANKS. WILLS AGAIN AGREED. I THEN ASKED IF GUYANA COULD FALL BACK ON THE REPORTED VENEZUELAN AID OFFER. HE REPLIED THAT YES, ALTHOUGH THEY WERE NOT SURE JUST WHAT THE PARAMETERS OF THIS AID OFFER ENTAILED. WILLS THEN SHOOK HIS HEAD IN DESPAIR AND SAID HE THOUGHT GUYANA WOULD BE ALL RIGHT FOR THE NEXT THREE OR FOUR MONTHS BUT IF NO AID WERE FORTHCOMING FROM OPEC OR NON-ALIGNED SOURCES THEN THERE WOULD BE PROBLEMS. (NOTE: FINANCE MINISTER HOPE IS NOW IN VIENNA TO SIGN A SMALL OPEC LOAN FOR US\$1.8 MILLION.) HE THEN WAS CONCERNED THAT GUYANA WOULD HAVE TO GO TO THE SOVIETS REQUESTING AID AND HE WAS VERY CONCERNED

ABOUT THE STRINGS THAT WOULD BE ATTACHED TO SUCH A LOAN.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 GEORGETOWN 0051

LIMDIS

FROM CHARGE

4. WILLS THEN WENT INTO A MONOLOGUE ON HIS CONCERN ABOUT RUSSIAN AND CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN GUYANA. HE BEGAN BY MENTIONING THE FACT THAT EVERYONE HERE WAS SO CONCERNED OVER CIA WHEN IN FACT THEY OUGHT TO BE CONCERNING THEMSELVES WITH THE KGB SINCE HE KNEW THEY WERE ACTIVE IN GUYANA. I THEN INTERJECTED THAT ARTICLES SUCH AS THE TWO THAT WERE PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S "CHRONICLE", ONE WITH A REUTER/CANA BYLINE ACCUSING THE CIA OF INTRODUCING SWINE FLU INTO CUBA IN 1971, AND ANOTHER PRENSA LATINA ARTICLE DIRECTLY LINKING THE CIA WITH RECENT CUBAN EXILE ACTIVITIES INCLUDING THE CUBANA AIRLINER CRASH WERE DESIGNED TO PORTRAY CIA AS THE VILLAIN OF THE CARIBBEAN AND IN EFFECT SHOW THAT USG ENEMY IN THIS AREA. WILLS SHOOK HIS HEAD AND SAID THAT IS MY POINT. THE RADICALS (NFI) HERE ARE WORKING VERY CLOSELY WITH THE CUBANS TO BRING GUYANA INTO CLOSE UNITY WITH CUBAN GOVERNMENT. HE SAID AS AN EXAMPLE OF THIS, A FEW DAYS AGO HE WAS AT LUNCH AT THE CUBAN AMBASSADOR'S HOUSE WHEN THE CUBAN AMBASSADOR WAS CALLED TO THE PHONE, LISTENED FOR

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A SHORT WHILE, AND SAID TO HIM, "HERE IS SOMETHING YOU HAVE TO KNOW. I HAVE A PRENSA LATINA MAN ON THE PHONE AND HE IS REPORTING THAT A NEWS ARTICLE JUST PUBLISHED IN MEXICO CLAIMS THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAD THREATENED TO BOMB TIMEHRI AIRPORT LAST YEAR IF GUYANA DID NOT PROHIBIT CUBANS FROM USING TIMEHRI AS A TRANSIT POINT TO ANGOLA." WILLS SAID HE KNEW CUBANS HAD TRIED THIS BEFORE AND GAVE IT NO CREDENCE BUT OTHERS WOULD. FONMIN THEN CONCLUDED MEETING BY SAYING THAT THIS IS WHY IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND GUYANA IMPROVE SO THAT AT LEAST HE HAS SOME LEVERAGE WITH WHICH TO WORK.

5. COMMENT: WE ARE REPORTING PARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGE SEPARATELY. WHILE WILLS APPEARED HIS NORMAL JOCULAR SELF, I SENSED AN UNDERLYING MOOD OF CONCERN. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT HIS POSITION AT THIS TIME IS SHAKY WITHIN THE CABINET SINCE BOTH THE PPP AND THE PM APPEAR PLEASED AT WILLS' STEWARDSHIP, BUT I DO BELIEVE HE IS WORRIED ABOUT FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN GUYANA. EMBASSY WILL REPORT BY SEPTTEL FURTHER DETAILS CONCERNING THE FORTHCOMING CHIEFS OF MISSIONS CONFERENCE BEGINNING TODAY IN GEORGETOWN.
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Message Attributes

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